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ISRAELI NUCLEAR ARMAMENT

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Israeli nuclear armament" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/39 of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 64, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on Israeli nuclear armament (A/47/538);

(b) Letter dated 6 February 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the documents adopted by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Dakar from 9 to 11 December 1991 (A/47/88-S/23563).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.9 and REV.1

5. On 28 October, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen submitted a draft resolution entitled "Israeli nuclear armament" (A/C.1/47/L.9), which was introduced by the representative of Qatar at the 26th meeting, on 5 November.

6. On 12 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.9/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Noting with grave concern Israel's persistent refusal to commit itself not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency",

was deleted;

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Deeply alarmed by the information with regard to the continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel and its testing of their delivery systems threatening regional and international peace and security",

was revised to read:

> "Deeply alarmed by the information with regard to the continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel";

(c) The eighth preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Aware of Israel's collaboration with South Africa in developing their nuclear-weapons delivery systems",

was revised to read:

> "Concerned at the cooperation between Israel and South Africa in the military nuclear fields";

(d) The ninth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Deeply concerned that Israel has not committed itself to refrain from attacking or threatening to attack safeguarded nuclear facilities",

was deleted;

(e) Operative paragraphs 3 and 4, which had read:

"3. Expresses grave concern at the cooperation between Israel and South Africa in the military nuclear fields;

"4. Expresses its deep concern regarding the information on Israel's continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons and testing of their delivery systems",

were deleted, and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(f) The original operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"6. Calls upon all States and organizations that have not yet done so not to cooperate with or give assistance to Israel that could enhance its nuclear-weapons capability",

was revised to read:

"4. Calls upon all States and organizations not to cooperate with or give assistance to Israel with the aim of enhancing its nuclear-weapons capability".

7. At the 34th meeting, on 16 November, the Syrian Arab Republic withdrew its sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.9/Rev.1 (see A/C.1/47/PV.34). Subsequently, on 20 November, its delegation submitted a letter addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee reinstating its sponsorship of the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.9/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 54 to 3, with 70 abstentions (see para. 9). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against: Israel, Romania, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Israeli nuclear armament

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its previous resolutions on Israeli nuclear armament, the latest of which is resolution 46/39 of 6 December 1991,

Recalling its resolution 44/108 of 15 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it called for placing all nuclear facilities in the region under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Recalling also that the Security Council, in its resolution 487 (1981), called upon Israel urgently to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards,

Taking note of relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/601 of 25 September 1992, 1/

1/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-sixth Regular Session, 21-25 September 1992.

Taking into consideration the final document on international security and disarmament adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, 2/ and in particular its paragraph 52, which relates to Israel's nuclear capabilities,

Deeply alarmed by the information with regard to the continuing production, development and acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel,

Concerned at the cooperation between Israel and South Africa in the military nuclear fields,

1. Deplores Israel's refusal to renounce possession of nuclear weapons;

2. Urges Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; 3/

3. Reaffirms that Israel should promptly apply Security Council resolution 487 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, requested it to place all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to refrain from attacking or threatening to attack nuclear facilities;

4. Calls upon all States and organizations not to cooperate with or give assistance to Israel with the aim of enhancing its nuclear-weapons capability;

5. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to inform the Secretary-General of any steps Israel may take to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to follow closely Israeli nuclear activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Israeli nuclear armament".

2/ A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.